

18. (Amended) An acylated cellobiose according to claim 1 wherein the major fraction and preferably at least 90% of the acylated cellobiose is the α anomer.

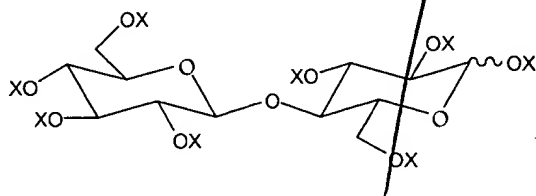
19. (Amended) An acylated cellobiose according to claim 1 wherein the major fraction and preferably at least 90% of the acylated cellobiose is the β anomer.

20. (Amended) An acylated cellobiose according to claim 1 wherein not more than 50% of the Z residue represents H.

27. (Amended) A method of thickening or structuring a water-immiscible liquid to form a cream, soft solid or solid comprising the steps of forming a solution of a gellant in the water-immiscible liquid at a temperature above its gelling temperature and thereafter cooling the solution to and maintaining it at below its gelling temperature until its viscosity has increased or until it has solidified wherein the gellant comprises an acylated cellobiose (CHME) as specified in claim 1.

28. (Amended) A cream, soft solid or solid composition comprising a water-immiscible liquid structured or thickened by an effective amount of a gellant in which the gellant comprises an acylated cellobiose (CHME) as specified in claim 1.

32. (Amended) A composition according to claim 28 in which said acylated cellobiose CHME is employed in conjunction with a gellant (ACB) that is represented by the formula:



in which X represents an acyl group (R-CO-) or H, being not more than a minority of X residues and R represents a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched chain hydrocarbon residue containing from 5 to 31 carbon atoms.

33. (Amended) A composition according to claim 32 in which said acylated cellobiose CHME is employed in a weight ratio to said ACB of from 25:1 to 1:25, preferably from 1:1 to 1:12.

34. (Amended) A composition according to claim 32 in which said CHME and said ACB are present in a weight ratio in the range of from 15:85 to 35:65.

35. (Amended) A composition according to claim 32 in which the CHME comprises cellobiose heptadecanoate mono benzoate and the ACB comprises cellobiose octadecanoate.

36. (Amended) A composition according to claim 34 in which the CHME is at least 90 molar% β anomer and the ACB is at least 80 molar% α anomer.

37. (Amended) A composition according to claim 28 which additionally contains one or more active agents selected from skin benefit agents, personal care agents, medicaments, sunscreen or tanning aid.

38. (Amended) A composition according to claim 36 in which the active agent is dissolved or suspended in the water-immiscible liquid.

39. (Amended) A composition according to claim 36 in which said personal care agent comprises an antiperspirant or a deodorant.

40. (Amended) A composition according to claim 38 in which the antiperspirant salt comprises selected from aluminium chlorohydrate, activated aluminium chlorohydrate,

aluminium/zirconium chlorohydrate and a complex of aluminium and zirconium chlorohydrate with glycine.

41. (Amended) A composition according to claim 38 in which the antiperspirant is suspended in the water-immiscible liquid and the composition is translucent.

42. (Amended) A composition according to a claim 28 in which the thickened or structured water-immiscible liquid forms an emulsion or micro-emulsion with an aqueous or water-miscible liquid.

43. (Amended) A composition according to claim 33 in which the or one active agent is dissolved in the aqueous or water-miscible liquid.

44. (Amended) A composition according to claim 41 in which the or one active agent comprises an antiperspirant salt.

45. (Amended) A composition according to claim 43 in which the antiperspirant salt comprises an aluminium salt or an aluminium and zirconium salt.

46. (Amended) A composition according to claim 44 in which the antiperspirant salt is selected from aluminium chlorohydrate, aluminium/zirconium chlorohydrate and a complex of aluminium and zirconium chlorohydrate with glycine.

47. (Amended) A composition according to claim 41 in which the emulsion is a water-in-oil emulsion.

48. (Amended) A composition according to claim 46 in which the emulsion is transparent or translucent

49. (Amended) A composition according to claim 47 in which the emulsion is a transparent or translucent stick.

50. (Amended) Cosmetic use of a composition according to claim 28 in which the composition is applied topically to skin.